

Issuance of P-EBT benefits for school year 2020-2021 through September 30

Tennessee will issue *P-EBT benefits* to *eligible children* in school year 2020-2021, through September 30, under one or more *P-EBT-qualifying school-specific scenarios*. Each of the highlighted terms is described in more detail below:

P-EBT benefits:

The free reimbursement for a breakfast and a lunch for school year 2020-2021, as specified by USDA. The benefit is multiplied by the number of school days that the eligible child did not receive a free or reduced-price meal at the school due to the school's public health related closure. In Tennessee the daily per-child benefit is **\$5.86**. (Note: If benefit days vary by school district, benefits to children must correspond to the appropriate number of benefit days and shown by district.)

SY 2020-2021 July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	Free Reimbursements USDA School Meal Programs		
	Lunch	Breakfast	Daily Total
Contiguous U.S.	\$3.60	\$2.26	\$5.86
Alaska	5.79	3.64	9.43
Hawaii, Guam, Virgin Islands	4.20	2.64	6.84

Notes:

1. Lunch rates include the 7 cent performance-based reimbursement and the extra 2 cents per meal received by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

2. Breakfast rates are those received by "severe need" schools.

Source: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-22/pdf/2020-15764.pdf>

Eligible children:

Children who would have received free or reduced price meals at school if not for the school's public health related school closure under any of the P-EBT qualifying school specific scenarios.

Tennessee understands that the child's eligibility through September 30, 2020 depends both on the child's status as a recipient of free or reduced-price school meals and the qualifying status of the school in school year 2020-2021 (not the school's status in school year 2019-2020).

Tennessee will provide P-EBT benefits to children who would have received free or reduced-price meals at the school if not for the school's public health related school closure in school year 2020-2021 and any eligible children not issued P-EBT benefits in Round One (1) of Tennessee's process through the following means:

- For August 2020 and September 2020 P-EBT benefits

- The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) will partner with the Tennessee School Nutrition officials to collect student information for children eligible for the P-EBT program based on the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast program rules.
- TDHS will request that the School officials provide student detail no later than seven (7) business days following the request for information.
- The School officials will provide the following, as requested, to TDHS utilizing a secure file transfer protocol (SFTP):
 1. Student Identification Number (ID)
 2. Student Name (First and Last)
 3. Student Date of Birth
 4. School Name
 5. School District
 6. Household mailing address (street, city, state, zip, and county) to issue the P-EBT card
 7. School specific scenario/model (i.e. hybrid)
 8. Number of days the student is eligible for P-EBT benefits. This will be determined using the following criteria:
 - P-EBT is available to eligible children when a school is physically closed to the student for five consecutive days during a public health emergency. This includes when instruction is virtual or temporarily suspended. P-EBT is available to eligible children after the school has been closed for five consecutive days. (In all scenarios, however, the benefit is computed from the first day of closure, not the 6th day of closure).
 - P-EBT is available where the closure of a school building for five consecutive days due to a public health emergency results in entirely virtual operations.
 - P-EBT is available for students who cannot come to school for at least five consecutive days due to a public health emergency. Students who do not attend class in-person do not benefit from an NSLP/SBP meal service at the school. P-EBT is available to virtual learning students for virtual learning periods lasting at least 5 consecutive days. No student is eligible for P-EBT benefits on in-person instruction days, and no benefits may be provided for virtual learning periods which are less than 5 consecutive days in duration.
- P-EBT benefits will align with the student's date of eligibility for school meal benefits and will not include months prior to their eligibility. A supplemental issuance equal to the Federal reimbursement rate for breakfast and lunch at the free rate will be provided for each eligible child for each day eligible.
- TDHS will merge all student records received from the School officials and will transmit demographic information to the EBT processor utilizing the existing file format. The P-EBT card will be printed by the EBT processor and mailed to the eligible household in the student's name.

- TDHS' EBT vendor will mail written notice to households explaining the P-EBT benefit, the amount of the benefit, how to use the benefit, and how to destroy the card when appropriate. Parents will use the child's date of birth and '0000' in place of an SSN to activate the card.
 - If households choose to decline the P-EBT benefits, the P-EBT card should be destroyed. EBT benefits are non-transferrable.
 - TDHS will work in collaboration with the EBT processor to ensure that a sufficient number of P-EBT cards are on hand.
 - If there are no mailing addresses on hand for children, all P-EBT cards for this scenario will be mailed to the School officials.
- For March 2020 through May 2020 P-EBT benefits
 - Children not issued P-EBT benefits in Round One (1) of Tennessee's process will receive benefits through a streamlined approach.
 - TDHS will provide preloaded P-EBT cards for this population directly to the School officials for distribution. The P-EBT cards will be accompanied by a list containing each student's name, date of birth, school district, and school name.
 - The School official will provide to the parent/caretaker a P-EBT card for each eligible student.
 - P-EBT benefits will align with the student's date of eligibility for school meal benefits and will not include months prior to their eligibility. A supplemental issuance equal to the Federal reimbursement rate for breakfast and lunch at the free rate will be provided for each eligible child for each day eligible.
 - TDHS' EBT vendor will provide to households written notice explaining the P-EBT benefit, the amount of the benefit, how to use the benefit, and how to destroy the card when appropriate. Parents will use the child's date of birth and '0000' in place of an SSN to activate the card.
 - If households choose to decline the P-EBT benefits, the P-EBT card should be destroyed. EBT benefits are non-transferrable.
 - TDHS shall request a progress report from the School officials to identify benefits issued/not issued.
 - TDHS will work in collaboration with the EBT processor to ensure that a sufficient number of P-EBT cards are on hand.
 - If the P-EBT card has not been picked up within 30 calendar days from receipt, the School official will send back to TDHS (at a designated address) within five (5) business days for destruction.

P-EBT qualifying school specific scenarios:

A. The school year begins with in-person instruction but subsequently closes without meal service at the school:

P-EBT is available to eligible children when a school is physically closed to the student for five consecutive days during a public health emergency. This includes when instruction is virtual or temporarily suspended. In these cases, **P-EBT is available to eligible children after the school has been closed for five**

consecutive days. (In all scenarios, however, the benefit is computed from the first day of closure, not the 6th day of closure).

- B. Schools with entirely virtual operations without meal service at the school: P-EBT is available** where the closure of a school building for five consecutive days due to a public health emergency results in entirely virtual operations.
- C. Hybrid model – school combines in-person and virtual instruction:** Some schools may begin the school year with a hybrid of in-person and virtual operations. For students receiving in-person instruction, NSLP and SBP meals are the appropriate mechanism for providing meals and P-EBT is not available for these students. However, P-EBT is available for students who cannot come to school for at least five consecutive days due to a public health emergency. Students who do not attend class in-person do not benefit from an NSLP/SBP meal service at the school. **P-EBT is available to virtual learning students for virtual learning periods lasting at least 5 consecutive days.** No student is eligible for P-EBT benefits on in-person instruction days, and no benefits may be provided for virtual learning periods which are less than 5 consecutive days in duration.

All other conditions in Tennessee’s approved plan pertaining to reporting and civil rights remain in effect.

Signature and Title of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:

Lisa A. Cowell

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Program Director 4, SNAP

Sam Percy
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Date of Request: August 30, 2020